



# Sacramento Metropolitan Fire District

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Rick Martinez  
Fire Chief

## Regulations For Haunted Houses

It should be noted that due to the original make-up of each haunted house maze, requirements might differ slightly from one to another.

1. Provide this office with two (2) sets of the complete floor plans showing the full maze, exiting, sprinkler system and alarm system prior to any construction. Allow 30 days for plan review and approval prior to receipt of permit. Plans submitted less than 30 days prior to event dates shall also submit fee for expedited plan review. No permits shall be issued for events with
2. Provide the dates and the hours of operation in which the "Haunted House" will be open to the public, the names and phone numbers of the person who will be in charge overall and during each shift.
3. Provide emergency lighting on a separate or independent circuit above the maze.

A responsible adult shall be stationed at the electrical panel whenever the public is present to activate overhead lighting should an emergency occur.

**NOTE:** Contact the Electrical Department for a permit at 366-2081.

4. The sprinkler, alarm and exiting requirements are as follows:
  - A. **Amusement Buildings:** An automatic sprinkler system shall be installed in all amusement buildings. The main water-flow switch shall be electrically supervised. The sprinkler main shutoff valve shall be supervised. When the amusement building is temporary, the sprinkler water supply system may be of a temporary type approved by the authority having jurisdiction.

### EXCEPTION:

1. An automatic sprinkler system need not be provided when the floor area of a temporary amusement building is less than 1,000 square feet and the exit travel distance from any point is less than 50 feet.
  2. The sprinkler main shut-off valve shall be locked in an approved manner if not electrically supervised, when approved by the chief.
- B. **Automatic Sprinkler System:** All of the walls used for the maze corridors shall be open at the top unless sprinkler heads are dropped down below the ceiling in the maze corridor. This detail is to be provided on the floor plans submitted.

C. Amusement Building Alarm System:

**General.** An approved smoke detection system installed in accordance with the Fire Code shall be provided in amusement buildings.

**EXCEPTION:** Single station smoke detectors may be used for temporary haunted house setups.

D. Directional exit signs shall be placed wherever necessary to clearly indicate the direction of egress from any place within the maze.

5. All of the maze walls shall be secured in a safe manner to prevent them from falling and injuring patrons during the tours.
6. Tour guides shall be provided for all tours taken through the **"Haunted House Maze."** The tour guide shall be experienced in walking the maze and know all of the locations of the fire extinguishers and emergency exits. Tour guides shall also be trained in the use of fire extinguishers.
7. Provide a certificate stating all decorative materials have been treated and have been made flame retardant. This office will retain this certificate. Decorative materials are materials such as curtains, draperies, streamers, cloth, cotton batting, straw, vines, leaves, trees (including Christmas trees), moss, netting, and surface coverings applied over the building interior finish for decorative, acoustical, or other effects. Decorative materials are not to obstruct or conceal exit doors, exit lights, sprinkler systems, or portable fire extinguishers, etc.
8. Maintain all exitways at a minimum of 44" in width.
9. Provide illuminated exit signs at all exit doors.
10. Maintain all exit doors in an open position during the time the public is allowed on the premises, unless exit doors are equipped with approved panic hardware. Minimum of two (2) exits are required.
11. Provide a minimum 2A, 10B:C rated fire extinguisher at all exit doors. Fire extinguishers shall also be located within 50 feet travel distance from any area or location within the building, and must be accessible. Fire extinguishers shall be mounted on the wall with their tops between 3' and 5' from floor level.
12. Provide approved extension cords and fused multi-plug extension cords.
13. All temporary wiring and receptacles in the building shall be on a G.F.I. (Ground Fault Interrupter) circuit.
14. Temporary electrical wiring shall be secured in an approved manner to the tops of the walls and all splices shall terminate within covered electrical junction boxes.
15. Provide a telephone (this may be a pay phone). Telephone must be readily available to the public.

16. Provide approved address numbers. Numbers shall be of adequate dimension and contrast to be clearly visible from the street fronting the property.
17. There shall be no smoking, candles, or open flame devices of any type. Post **"NO SMOKING"** signs.
18. Provide an **Approved Fire Watch**: The owner, agent or lessee shall employ one or more qualified persons, as required and approved by the chief, to be on duty at the house or location and remain on duty during the times the house is open to the public, or when the activity is being conducted. Before each performance or the start of the activity, the fire watch persons shall inspect the required fire appliances provided to see that they are in proper place and in good working order. He/she shall keep diligent watch for fires during the time the activity is open to the public or such activity is being conducted and take prompt measures for extinguishment of fires that may occur. Such individuals shall not be required or permitted, while on duty, to perform any other duties than those herein specified.

Final clearance is subject to field inspection and necessary tests and shall be obtained from the Fire Department prior to occupancy. After the final clearance and the establishment is open to the public, random inspections may be performed at any time during business hours.

Call this office for final inspection 48 hours prior to opening for the first time at (916) 485-6666.